



Bellaggio Computer and Technology Club Newsletter October 2011

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Next Meeting

Mon. Oct 17 7:00PM

Media Room

Guest speaker:

MaryAnn Hanley

Barnes and Noble's
Community Relations
Manager

Topic:

"The Nook" and more

Paul's Computer 101
will begin at 6:00PM

Welcome to the 2011 - 2012 Bellaggio Computer & Technology Club's season. We hope to bring to you new and exciting programs to help you get more out of your computer.

Our speaker programming committee (Harold Heydt and Jeff Kolodney) are working hard to bring us relevant and exciting guests. Our guest speaker for October is MaryAnn Hanley, Barnes & Noble's Community Relations Manager. She will be demonstrating the Nook, B&N's reader equivalent of the Kindle. For our November meeting, being held on **November 14**, we have scheduled Marco Madrazo, Lead Trainer for **Microsoft**. Getting a rep from Microsoft is "next to impossible"... but the promise of pizza, our welcome back pizza party for members is November 14, might have done the trick. Future guest speakers will be announced as they are "signed".

Our SIG / classes program is being set up as we speak (OK, write). We expect to have camera and photography classes, beginner computer classes, Word and Excel classes, eBay classes, basic computer help sessions, and more. New classes in Open Office, Apple's MAC, tablets, and more, are anticipated. A finalized schedule will be announced shortly (have to wait for a few snowbirds to return). All classes are open to BCTC members only.

We recently added another benefit to membership. HHGregg (Wellington) will offer commercial pricing for **certain** items in the store. Computers are not included. After dealing with a salesperson, you must ask for a manager and have your BCTC membership card with you. If the discount is available, you'll get it. There is no preset discount, but commercial prices are better than *their* retail.

In the past this newsletter was sent to all who opted for email from BCTC via the Bellaggio website. We feel that this is a disservice to paid members so starting in November only members will get this publication. Everyone will still get notices of BCTC meetings and events.

Dues is still \$10 a year. Join at a ticket fair or at any meeting.

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There will be changes to the content of the newsletter. People have told me that it is too long, too much to digest. So, starting with this issue I will *try* to keep it to a maximum of 10 pages (see the word *try*). Hopefully, I can convince others to add to the content... a photography column, an Apple column, a review of software or a website (we've offered so many to you), some tips or hints you might have. After all, this isn't my newsletter, it's yours. Add to it.

Have a great season.

Jeff

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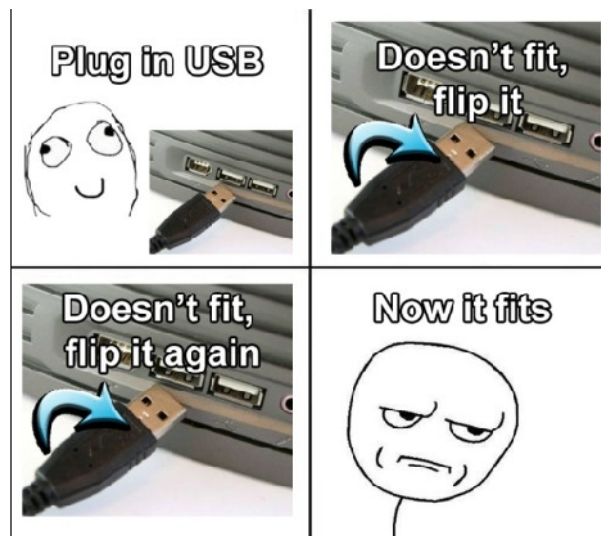
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On advice of our lawyers, the firm of Dewey, Cheatham and Howe, we MUST mention the following:

The Bellaggio Computer & Technology Club makes no endorsement or warranty, expressed or implied, with regard to listed websites, topics, products, services or any other content. Results may vary based on operating systems and other variables beyond our control.

The Bellaggio Computer & Technology Club provides this newsletter and e-mail communication with you as a free service in order to further your education and computer & technology knowledge. While we constantly strive to achieve the highest possible standards, this service is provided without warranties of any kind, either explicit or implied.

The Bellaggio Computer & Technology Club has no control over the content of websites featured in this newsletter or over pop-up advertising associated with featured websites.

The Bellaggio Computer & Technology Club takes no responsibility and accepts no liability for your use of any information on listed Websites. Information on listed Websites is not meant to replace the advice of an attorney, physician, pharmacist or any other expert in their field.

Member discounts with membership cards

BatteriesPlus. 

Any Battery. Any Bulb. For Anything.™
Nationwide network of over 470 locations and growing.

Lake Worth ... located on the southeast corner of Lantana and

Jog Rd., behind the Outback Steakhouse & Jiffy Lube. Save 10% on all purchases.

United States CONTRACT Post Office ... Target Shopping Center (across from Bellaggio) ... a few doors north of Sal's restaurant. 10% discount on non-postal items. Please remember **POSTAL items (stamps & services) NOT INCLUDED.**

hhgregg
appliances & electronics

10560 Forest Hill Blvd. East Wellington, FL 33414

(outside mall, where Linens and Things used to be)

Commercial prices on **certain** items. Probably NOT computers. Ask for manager and **have membership card.**

Demystifying "The Cloud" DataDoctors.com

The 'cloud' has become the marketing catch phrase of 2011. In general, the way it is being portrayed, it's as if it's some revolutionary technology that is just now hitting the scene.

The reality is whenever you hear anyone referring to 'the cloud' they are by and large referring to an Internet resource of some sort.

Since the beginning of the Internet, whenever a network engineering diagram was created, the Internet was always represented by a cloud, thus the reference.

Using 'the cloud' in your daily activities is actually nothing new. Millions of people were operating on a hybrid 'cloud' service for years when they used AOL. By default, e-mails, contacts and attachments all lived on AOL's servers and only the program that allowed access to the data lived on the user's hard drive.

Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Gmail, Yahoo Mail and lots of other commonly used services are essentially cloud services, because everything is stored and accessed via the Internet.

Music services are also moving toward cloud models to make it easy for you to access your music from any Internet connected device you own.

In the past, when you downloaded a music file, it existed on that single machine and had to be manually synced or moved to other computers or devices. With copyrighted music files, you also had to jump through various authorization hoops and the number of devices that could play the files were limited.

In the case of the Amazon Cloud Drive service, you were being given the option to store a copy of your music on Amazon's servers so that you can access it from any Internet connected device from anywhere in the world.

Apple's iTunes will soon include an iCloud feature for iTunes music libraries, while services like Spotify store their entire music catalog 'in the cloud' for their users and offer a premium service that allows you to create offline playlists for when you don't have an Internet connection.

One of the great benefits to cloud based services is that the burden of security and backup falls to the provider of the service. This means that you must trust the service provider to be responsible for the security and backup of your data, but in all likelihood, they will do a better job than most users ever could.

A downside to cloud-based services is that if you don't have an Internet connection, you don't have access to your files (like on an airplane or if your internet connection goes down).

And even the biggest cloud service providers like Intuit and Google have had temporary service outages, which isn't a big deal unless you need access to your files at the moment they are down.

In my opinion, the best scenario is a hybrid of traditional storage and cloud storage, which means that a copy of your important files exist in the 'cloud' and on your own computer's hard drive or your office's server.

The key to evaluating any 'cloud' service is to go through the 'disaster' scenarios to see how it will impact you.

What would happen if you lost your Internet connection or the service has a temporary outage? Would not having access to your files be a minor inconvenience or will your life come to a screeching halt?

Do you have a local copy of your critical information to fall back on or will it be all or nothing with the cloud service?

Many businesses use powerful cloud services to lower startup costs, eliminate issues with updates or upgrades and make it easy to get to corporate info from anywhere.

The tradeoffs include what I've already covered and the likelihood that switching to another solution could be very difficult, so business owners should choose their cloud solutions wisely!

Hibernate After Sleep

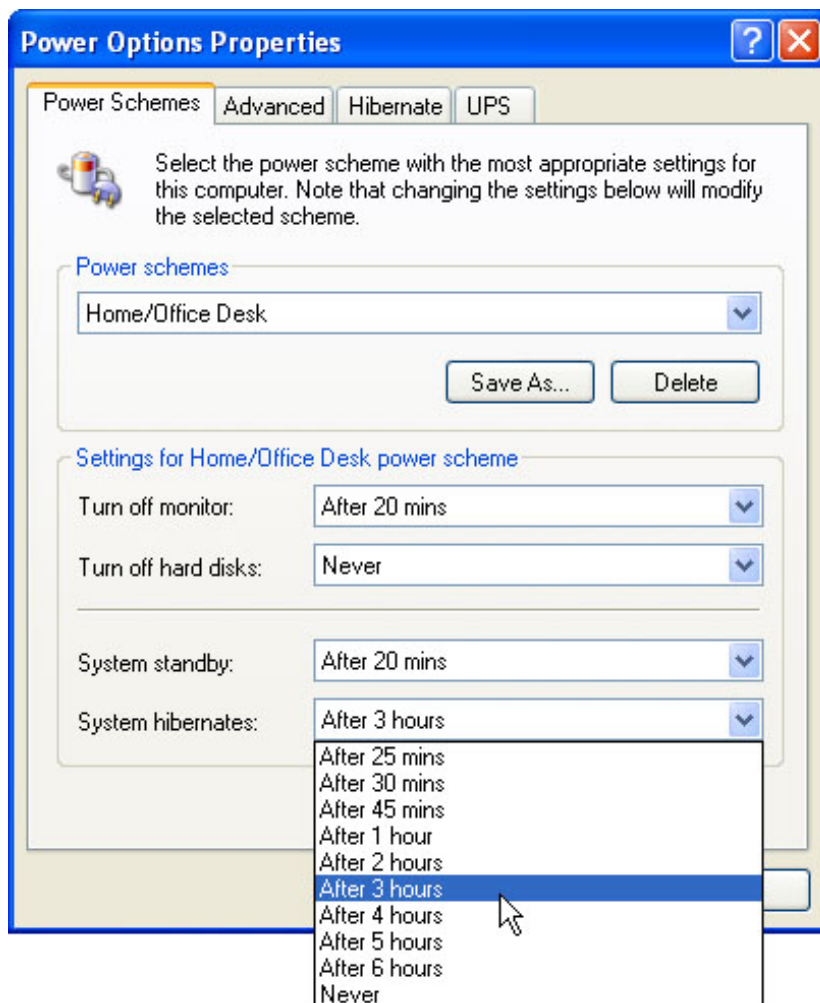
 By Lincoln Spector, PCWorld

You can save power by setting up your Windows PC to go into sleep mode (called Standby in XP) after so many minutes without use. You can save even more power by having it go from sleep to hibernation after a longer period of neglect.

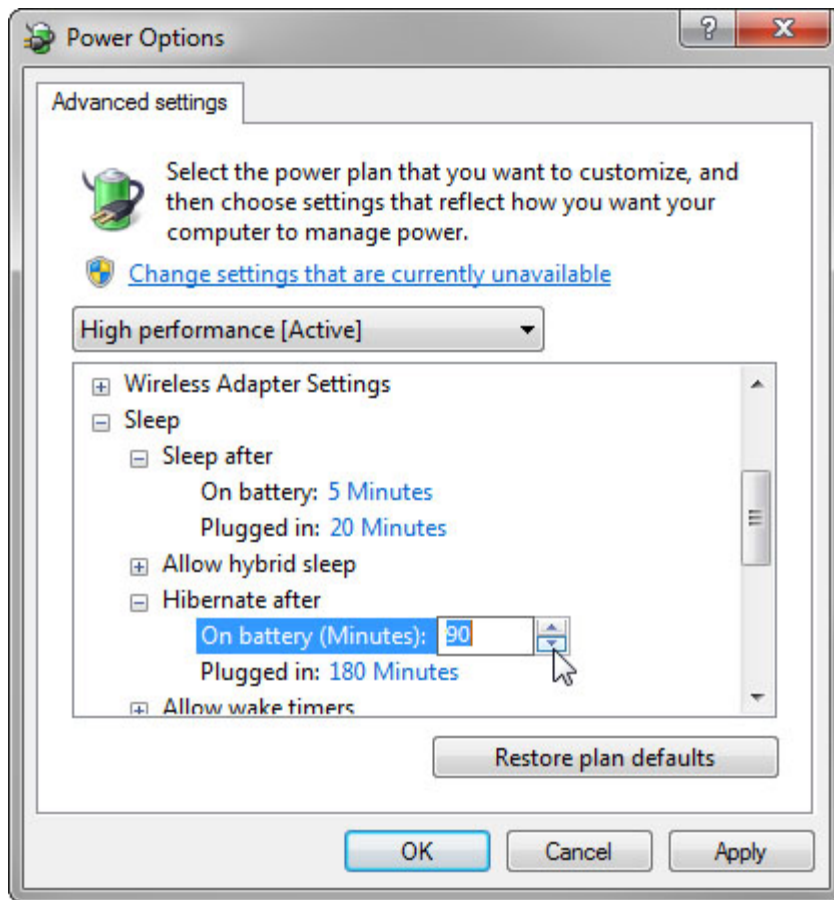
Both modes save power, and can bring you back to the same place you were at before you powered down. While sleep mode cuts down on power consumption considerably, your computer is still on. It still needs electricity to keep Windows, currently-running applications, and open files in RAM. But when a PC hibernates, it copies everything in RAM to a file on the hard drive, then shuts down the PC completely.

Hibernation saves more power, but it's slower. A modern PC can go in and out of sleep almost instantaneously. It can take more than half a minute to hibernate, and another half minute to wake up.

For the best balance of power and convenience, I keep my PC set to go to sleep after 20 minutes of no use, and to hibernate after 180 minutes. (That's for AC power; on battery, it's 5 and 90 minutes.) Here's how to set this up:



If you're using **Windows XP**, right-click the desktop and select Properties. Click the Screen Saver tab, then the Power button. Click the Hibernation tab and check Enable Hibernation. Click the Apply button. Then click the Power Schemes tab for standby and hibernate options.



In **Vista or Windows 7**, click Start, type power, and select Power Options. In the left pane, click Choose when to turn off the display. You'll find a Sleep option there, but nothing about hibernation. So click the Change advanced power settings link. Expand the Sleep section for "Sleep after" and Hibernate after" options.

or should you **Turn a PC Off or Leave It On?**

I see no reason to keep a computer on when it's not in use. That wastes electricity, which is bad for your pocketbook and bad for the planet. And it's probably bad for the computer.

Yes, I have seen occasional arguments that shutting down a computer, then starting it up cold, cause more wear and tear than leaving it on for 12 hours. I just don't buy them. All computers potentially suffer from heat problems, and one that never gets a chance to cool down will suffer from more of them. Besides, a computer that's off is a computer that can't be infected with malware or behave under orders from afar if it's already infected.

If you don't like starting your computer fresh every morning, you can hibernate it rather than shutting it down. From the hardware and power-consumption points of view, there's no difference between shutting down a PC and hibernating it. But there is a difference in what happens when you boot it again in the morning. A shutdown PC will give Windows a fresh start, clear of any digital cobwebs it acquired since its last boot. A hibernated PC will wake up where you left it, with the same programs, files, and windows open.

Which you prefer is a matter of personal choice, although you should probably shut it down at least once a week to clear those cobwebs.



It's not too late to sign up for
The Florida Association of
Computer User Groups
(FACUG) 3rd Computer &
Technology Conference@Sea.



Over 400 people (including 18 Bellagians) have signed up for the 5 day 4 night conference aboard the Norwegian Sky. The cruise will leave from Miami on Monday, January 23, 2012 and return January 27th

Ports of call are: The Grand Bahamas Island, Nassau, and Great Stirrup Cay, NCL's private island.

For more information go to FACUG's website, www.facug.org or email me at ourbctc@gmail.com

Never Change the Date Setting of a Watch Bottom Line/Personnel

Never change the date setting of a watch between the hours of 10 pm and 2 am—this can break the calendar wheel. Also: Be careful when pulling the crown outward to adjust the hands—some watches adjust with a simple pull of the crown... others require you to unscrew the crown in order to adjust the hands. After you have adjusted the time, be sure to screw the crown back tightly (if unscrewed) in order to keep out moisture.

Common Computer No No's

Having a drink while using your computer: It doesn't matter if it is water or whiskey, when liquids are spilled on computer equipment, damage is almost inevitable. Be careful to keep liquids away from computer equipment.

Using no surge protector: If you don't have your computer, monitor, printer, and other equipment plugged into a good surge protector, you are playing with fire. Everyday power surges and spikes (especially here in Florida) can damage your equipment. A good surge protector will absorb the power surges and keep your equipment safe.

Yanking a cable out of your computer: Be sure you gently remove any cable that is attached to your computer. Some cables have screws that hold them in place. Some have plastic tabs. If you just yank the cable out, the cable can break or the computer port can be damaged. While this may seem minor, sometimes it can be an expensive repair.

Clicking on things you shouldn't: Be careful what you click on. Rogue antivirus programs are rampant today. They will tell you that your computer is infected and ask you to click to let them remove the virus. When you do, they can infect your computer, even if you have an antivirus program installed. Learn all you can about the antivirus program that you have installed and what alerts it may give you. Ignore any other alerts, even if they seem legitimate. If you think you are being faced with a rogue popup of any sort, you can often get rid of it by just turning the computer off and restarting it.

New Uses For Old Things (Does not include your spouses)**Paper Towel / Toilet Paper Tube as Cord Organizer**

Corral unruly computer cables by running them through a spare tube.

**Twist Tie as Wire Gatherer**

Streamline tangled cords. Shorten a too-long one by looping the center and wrapping with a tie, or secure several cords together.

**Cassette Case as Cord Organizer**

Neatly coil the cords of your small, tangle-prone cables and ear buds and tuck them into the empty plastic holder. If you have several, label each case with a sticker for clear identification. It'll be the end of crossed wires.

**File Folder Labels as Cord Identification**

Attach adhesive file-folder labels with the names of the cords' owners (for example, phone, computer, fax, and lamp; TV, DVD, VCR, and phone) near the plugs. This way, you can quickly ID which cord belongs to which machine—and you won't unplug the wrong one.

Bellaggio Computer & Technology Club

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION -- 2011 / 2012

MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS OF BELLAGGIO

PLEASE COMPLETE (**PRINT, PLEASE**) AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK

CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLY AT MEETINGS

*still \$10.00 (cheap!)

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

"IMPORTANT – Since we are a Computer and Technology Club, ALL Club information will be sent to your E-mail address. Make certain that you have selected to receive information, from the club, via the Bellaggio website (www.bellaggiofla.net), by logging in to the Bellaggio web site, clicking on User Profile, clicking on the subscriptions tab, and placing a check mark in the box next to Computer and Technology Club."

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ @ _____

LOCAL PHONE: (561) _____ RESIDENT: ___FULL TIME ___WINTERS ONLY

membership renewal _____ new member _____

The **CLUB** belongs to **YOU**, the members, and provides the best services when **MEMBERS ARE HELPING MEMBERS.**

I would be willing to assist other Members as a Volunteer _____yes

I am interested in being a teacher, leader, or a class aide _____ yes

WHAT Computer AREAS ARE YOU ABLE TO TEACH, HELP? _____

Please complete and Return this Application with your Dues

(\$10.00, per person, for the season -- Beginning Oct. 1)

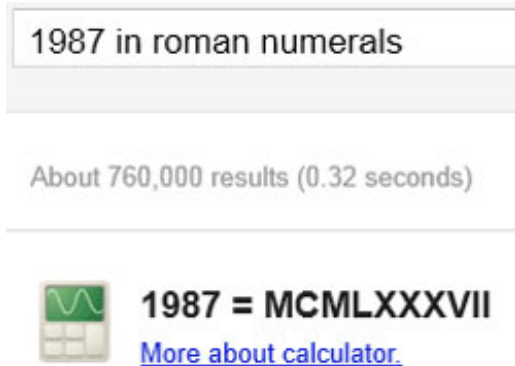
Make Checks Payable to BCTC

Please bring completed form to a ticket fair, a meeting, or mail to either: Morty Gellen, Treasurer, BCTC 6275 Via Primo St. Lake Worth, FL 33467 OR Jeff Robins 9980 Mantova Dr. Lake Worth, FL 33467

Up to date information is posted at the Clubhouse, channel 63 and on our web site, www.thebctc.com

Google Roman Numerals

I know how to write Roman numerals. It's just when the numbers get lengthy that I get confused. Thankfully, though, Google has you covered! Next time you need to figure out something in Roman numerals, simply head over to Google and type the number, followed by "in Roman Numerals". Like this:



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www.thebctc.com



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If you are looking for a free program to adjust your photos, look no further than Photoscape. This program lets you resize, adjust, crop, remove red eye, and much, much more. The actual scope of the program is amazing. Besides just editing photos, it is also a slideshow creator, a batch edition, a file viewer, and a screen capture program. It is one of the few programs that lets you easily convert RAW format photos to JPG photos. It even lets you print passport photos.

When you get to the Photoscape website, you will want to click on the Free Download tab to get to the download area. Just download, install, and use. This is a powerful free program and it's easy to use.



www.photoscape.org

Buy, Sell, or Trade

Have you got something to sell? Something to trade? Something you're trying to find? Post it here and maybe a fellow member can help match things up.

